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## Reports

### Item#1

China and the United States: Core Interests, Common Interests, and Partnership. U.S. Institute of Peace. Xu Xinbo. June 2011.

While China continues to call for US respect of its core interests as a means toward greater cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and global climate change, the United States prefers an immediate focus on cooperating on those common concerns. The author examines how these differences can be bridged to build a genuine partnership.

[Note: contains copyrighted materia].

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/SR277.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

### Item#2

China's Exchange Rate Politics. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Charles Freeman and Wen Jin Yuan. June 16, 2011.

On June 19, 2010, the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the country's central bank, announced that China would allow the resumption of the renminbi's (RMB) steady appreciation against the dollar through "a managed floating exchange rate regime" tied to a basket of currencies. The authors conclude that although the announcement last year signaled the Chinese government's intention to continue its plan to gradually liberalize the RMB exchange rate mechanism, the Chinese central leadership circle has been embroiled in endless debate, with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the People's Bank of China serving as the primary agencies in conflict, on whether China should gradually open its capital market and allow more flexibility in RMB's exchange rate.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://cisi.org/files/publication/110615\\_Freeman\\_ChinaExchangeRatePolitics\\_Web.pdf](http://cisi.org/files/publication/110615_Freeman_ChinaExchangeRatePolitics_Web.pdf) [PDF format, 18 pages].

### Item#3

Communication for Better Understanding and Improvement of Cross-Taiwan Strait Relations. Brookings Institution. Chu Shulong. June 2011.

Since early 2008, with the valuable support of the MacArthur Foundation's Asian Security Initiative, the Institute of International Strategic and Development Studies (IISDS) of Tsinghua University in Beijing, China and the Institute for International Relations (IIR) at National Chengchi University in Taiwan have organized a series of private workshops, collectively called the "Academic Dialogue," on cross-Taiwan Strait relations. With a number of agreements on economic and social issues in the past two years, and especially with the ECFA, the two sides of the Taiwan Strait have normalized their economic and social relations the first time in more than sixty years. The next step is to implement those good agreements and to ensure that they can help reach the designed goal to help the economic and social development of both sides, and to benefit people on both sides, especially on the Taiwan side. Then, whether and

when the two sides can normalize and stabilize their political and security relations will remain uncertain and a challenge, according to the report.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2011/06\\_cross\\_straight\\_shulong.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2011/06_cross_straight_shulong.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#4

Evaluating U.S. Foreign Assistance to Afghanistan. Majority Staff Report Prepared for the Use of the Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, 112th Congress, First Session, June 8, 2011.

Today, the United States spends more on foreign aid in Afghanistan than in any other country, including Iraq. After 10 years and roughly \$18.8 billion in foreign aid, we have achieved some real successes. There has been a sevenfold increase in the number of children attending school and significant improvements in health care. But we should have no illusions. Serious challenges remain that will prevent us from achieving our goals unless they are addressed...other actors, such as the U.S. military or other donors. The theme echoed throughout this report is that our strategies and projects should meet the conditions of being necessary, achievable, and sustainable before funding is allocated. The report describes how these principles have been applied in practice through the cases of the National Solidarity Program and Basic Package of Health Services (Case Study A) and the ongoing effort to improve sub-national governance through the Performance-Based Governors Fund (Case Study B).

<http://foreign.senate.gov/reports> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#5

Freedom in the 50 States. Mercatus Center, George Mason University. Jason Sorens and William Ruger. June 7, 2011.

The study comprehensively ranks the American states on their public policies that affect individual freedoms in the economic, social, and personal spheres. It updates, expands, and improves upon 2009 Freedom in the 50 States study. The authors have added more policy variables (such as bans on trans fats and the audio recording of police, Massachusetts's individual health-insurance mandate, and mandated family leave), improved existing measures (such as those for fiscal policies, workers' compensation regulations, and asset-forfeiture rules), and developed specific policy prescriptions for each of the 50 states based on data and a survey of state policy experts.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://mercatus.org/sites/all/modules/custom/mercatus\\_50\\_states/files/Freedom50States2011.pdf](http://mercatus.org/sites/all/modules/custom/mercatus_50_states/files/Freedom50States2011.pdf) [PDF format, 83 pages].

#### Item#6

The Future of Government: Lessons from Around the World. World Economic Forum. June 7, 2011.

Governments around the world are faced with new demands, new expectations and a fast-growing array of new technologies and tools. A current example is the Middle East, where a youth revolution built on the global technology revolution is demanding immediate reform. The challenges faced by

governments increasingly span national borders and require resources and expertise to be mobilized on a scale that far exceeds those of governments. To be efficient and effective in today's complex, interlinked and fast-changing environment, governments need to redesign their structures and processes to capitalize on a new set of actors and tools.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/EU11/WEF\\_EU11\\_FutureofGovernment\\_Report.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/EU11/WEF_EU11_FutureofGovernment_Report.pdf) [PDF format, 52 pages].

#### Item#7

Global Forecast 2011: International Security in a Time of Uncertainty. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Craig Cohen and Josiane Gabel. June 10, 2011.

We have witnessed a number of significant challenges to international security in recent years. Some crises have arisen so quickly and with so little warning that national security professionals have had difficulty responding in ways that maintain strategic balance. Other challenges have emerged so slowly and over such a vast scale that near-term options appear limited. How to determine in real time what is a tectonic shift and what is merely a low-magnitude tremor. How to anticipate events and set clear policy goals at a time of such dynamism? The study demonstrated that while countries see the U.S. position declining relative to rising powers like China, most see the current international order as durable so long as the U.S. continues to play its traditional leadership role. In fact, foreign expectations of U.S. power remain great and are increasing despite our economic troubles. The long-term worry in Europe, Asia, and the Gulf is not over U.S. capacity, but U.S. resolve.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://csis.org/files/publication/110610\\_Cohen\\_GlobalForecast2011.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/110610_Cohen_GlobalForecast2011.pdf) [PDF format, 96 pages].

#### Item#8

H.R. 1280 Amendment to the Atomic Energy Act: Doing More Harm than Good. The Heritage Foundation. Jack Spencer. June 9, 2011.

H.R. 1280--a new bill currently before the House of Representatives--is intended to ensure that America's commercial nuclear exports do not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Designed as an amendment to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, the bill has a laudable goal. But, despite some positive aspects, the overall effects of H.R. 1280 would be counterproductive. Jack Spencer explains how the proposed amendment would prevent implementation of U.S. regulatory and safety standards, put U.S. businesses at a disadvantage in the global market, and could hinder, not support, U.S. and international nonproliferation efforts.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://thf\\_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/bg2570.pdf](http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/bg2570.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

#### Item#9

Helping Students Get Back on Track: What Federal Policymakers Can Learn from New York City's Multiple Pathways to Graduation Initiative. Alliance for Excellent Education. June 13, 2011.

The call to action to address the nation's dropout crisis has bubbled up to the federal level, where policymakers are dedicating funding and offering solutions to improve graduation rates, including proposals to be part of the pending reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Much of this attention is rightly focused on the 2,000 high schools with the lowest graduation rates, which together account for more than half of the nation's dropouts. However, research and emerging practice across the country indicate that this school-centric strategy must be complemented with one that addresses the specific educational needs of those students most likely to drop out of school--off-track students--in an effort to prevent them from dropping out.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/HelpingStudentsNYC.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

#### Item#10

How Should Americans Think About Human Rights? The Heritage Foundation. Kim R. Holmes. June 13, 2011.

America's storied leadership in promoting liberty and individual rights began long before we became a nation. It began when the first persecuted immigrants came here to find religious freedom. Their belief in a natural, God-given right to practice religion freely grew out of centuries-old struggles of people to secure a right to life, liberty, and property under the rule of law, not the whim of rulers. How should Americans think about human rights today?

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://thf\\_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/UA9.pdf](http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/UA9.pdf) [PDF format, 24 pages].

#### Item#11

Intelligence Information: Need-to-Know vs. Need-to-Share. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Richard A. Best Jr. June 6, 2011.

Unauthorized disclosures of classified intelligence are seen as doing significant damage to U.S. security. This is the case whether information is disclosed to a foreign government or published on the Internet. On the other hand, if intelligence is not made available to government officials who need it to do their jobs, enormous expenditures on collection, analysis, and dissemination are wasted. A consensus emerged that U.S. intelligence agencies should share information more widely in order that analysts could integrate clues acquired by different agencies in order to "connect the dots." This report focuses on information acquired, analyzed, and disseminated by agencies of the U.S. Intelligence Community, but these concerns also affect classified information outside the Intelligence Community.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/R41848.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

#### Item#12

More Blame Wars than Domestic Spending or Tax Cuts for Nation's Debt. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. June 7, 2011.

Far more Americans say that the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has contributed a great deal to the nation's debt than say that about increased domestic spending or the tax cuts enacted over the past decade. Six-in-ten (60%) say the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has contributed a great deal to the size of the debt. About four-in-ten (42%) say the same about the condition of the national economy.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2017/poll-what-created-the-national-debt-wars-spending-tax-cuts-deficit-reduction-proposals> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#13

The Role of Education in the Arab World Revolutions. Brookings Institution. Rebecca Winthrop. June 10, 2011.

The causes of the recent revolutions in the Arab world are numerous and complex, and certainly cannot be attributed to one factor. Many experts spoke about the big role that social media played as well as the deep-seeded frustrations with corruption, state legitimacy and foreign policies. However, one tipping point that experts have focused on is demographics- specifically, the youth bulge. Nearly one-half of the population of the Middle East and North Africa is under the age of 20 and high rates of unemployment (25 percent) among 15 to 24-year-olds in the region continues to be of huge concern. While access to education is an essential pathway out of poverty in many countries, in Morocco and Algeria, university graduates are less likely to be employed than their peers who have only completed primary or secondary school. In Egypt and Bahrain, those with a secondary school education have higher rates of unemployment than their peers with just primary school educations.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0610\\_arab\\_world\\_education\\_winthrop.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0610_arab_world_education_winthrop.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#14

Views of Middle East Unchanged by Recent Events. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. June 10, 2011.

The American public continues to express reservations about the U.S. taking an active role in the world, and casts a wary eye on the turmoil sweeping the Middle East. Far more continue to say they sympathize with Israel rather than the Palestinians, and a plurality says President Obama is striking the right balance with the situation.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2020/poll-american-attitudes-foreign-policy-middle-east-israel-palestine-obama> [HTML format, various paging].